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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 TOKYO 12990 161527Z

42
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 PM-04 INR-07 /038 W
---------- 121203
R 160941Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3324
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY SEOUL
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

S E C R E T TOKYO 12990

STADIS//////////////////////////////////

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PINR, JA
SUBJ: JAPAN'S NATIONAL INTEREST IN ASIA PACIFIC REGION

REFS: (A) DIA 102006Z (B) JAKARTA 11314 (C) MANILA 12894

1. EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS THAT DEPT REVIEW DIA REQUEST (REF A) CONCERNING QTE JAPANESE PERCEPTIONS OF THE MILITARY NEED FOR POTENTIAL

DEFENSE OF JAPANESE INTERESTS IN THE ASIA PACIFIC REGION UNQTE. AS POINTED OUT REFTELS B AND C, A MEANINGFUL RESPONSE WOULD REQUIRE A COORDINATED MISSION EFFORT. WE ALSO SHARE JAKARTA'S CONCERN THAT A SUDDEN DISPLAY OF USG INTEREST AROUND THE REGION MIGHT RAISE SERIOUS QUESTIONS.

2. AS A PRACTICAL MATTER WE HAVE DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE EFFORT TO REPORTING ON JAPANESE DEFENSE PERCEPTIONS. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO ENCOURAGE A DIALOGUE WITH THE GOJ WHICH WOULD FURTHER IL-LUMINATE QUESTIONS SUCH AS THAT ASKED BY DIA. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS WELL AWARE, THE PROGRESS IS SLOW AND MOST JAPANESE ARE CAUTIOUS IN EXPRESSING THEMSELVES ON SUCH SUBJECTS GIVEN STILL-STRONG TABOOS. IF, AFTER APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON COORDINATIONS, EMBASSY INPUTS ARE REQUESTED, WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO COOPERATE,
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DRAWING ON APPROPRIATE MISSION ELEMENTS INCLUDING DAO.

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IN THE MEANTIME, PENDING DEPARTMENTAL INSTRUCTIONS, WE HAVE ASKED
DAO TO DEFER ACTION ON THE DIA REQUEST.
HODGSON

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